

Remarks

Claims 1-8 are currently pending in the Application.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious in view of Burt (U.S. Patent No. 5,999,662) and further in view of Korobkin (U.S. Patent No. 6,912,293).

Applicants submit that the Examiner has not established a prima facie case of obviousness for the claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) because the Examiner has failed to show that Burt and Korobkin teach each and every element as claimed in the present application.

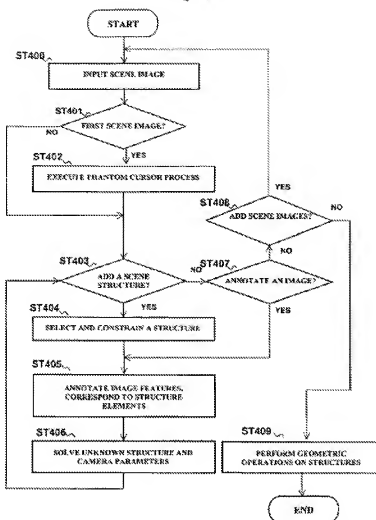
Claim 1

A. Applicants submit that the Examiner has not shown that Burt and Korobkin disclose, suggest or teach, *inter alia*, the following features recited by Claim 1 of the present application:

“pipe projection converting means for creating a developed diagram in the **circumferential direction of the inner wall of the tubular object** with respect to each of frames of the captured digital image data” (emphasis added)

Although the Examiner concedes that Burt does not disclose this feature (p. 3, ll. 8-12 of the Office Action), the Examiner alleges that this feature is disclosed in Korobkin (p. 3, ll. 13-17 of the Office Action). Referring to Korobkin’s Figure 34, reproduced below, the Examiner asserts that this feature is disclosed by Korobkin’s step “ST406” disclosed in c. 30, ll. 51-60 of Korobkin (p. 3, ll. 16-18 of the Office Action). Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner’s assertion.

Fig. 34



According to Korobkin, Figure 34, reproduced above, is a flow diagram of creating Figure 36, reproduced below, from Figure 35, reproduced below (c. 28, ll. 55-59 of Korobkin).

Fig. 35

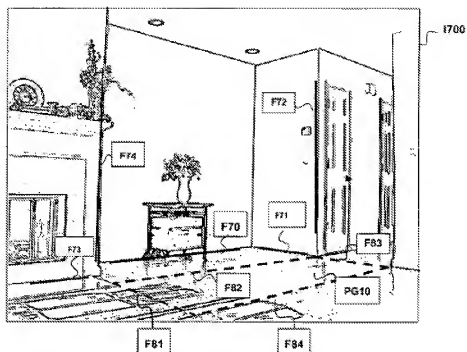
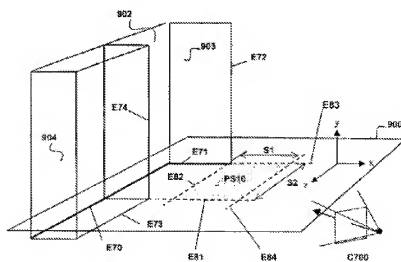


Fig. 36



Where exactly does Korobkin's step "ST406" creates "a developed diagram in the **circumferential direction of the inner wall of the tubular object**" (emphasis added) as recited in Claim 1 based on Figure 35 to create Figure 36? Where does Figure 35 show a "tubular object" that step "ST406" uses to create "a developed diagram in the **circumferential direction of the inner wall of the tubular object**" (emphasis added) as recited in Claim 1?

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner failed to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.104(c)(2) by not designating "as nearly as practicable" where Korobkin's step "ST406" uses a "tubular object" to create "a developed diagram in the **circumferential direction of the inner wall of the tubular object**" (emphasis added) as recited in Claim 1.

Applicants submit that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness for the claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

B. Applicants submit that the Examiner has not shown that Burt and Korobkin disclose, suggest or teach, *inter alia*, the following features recited by Claim 1 of the present application:

"generating a continuous developed still image from a video image of an inner wall of a tubular object **photographed while moving in the axial direction of the tubular object**" (emphasis added)

Although the Examiner concedes that Burt does not disclose generating a video image of an inner wall (p. 3, ll. 8-12 of the Office Action), the Examiner alleges that this feature is disclosed in Korobkin (p. 3, ll. 13-17 of the Office Action). Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's assertion.

According to Korobkin's Figure 36, reproduced above, camera C700 is **not** shown as "moving in the axial direction of the tubular object" as recited in Claim 1. How can Korobkin disclose a video image of an inner wall when Korobkin's camera C700 is not "moving in the axial direction of the tubular object" as recited in Claim 1?

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner failed to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.104(c)(2) by not designating "as nearly as practicable" where Korobkin's camera C700 is "moving in the axial direction of the tubular object" as recited in Claim 1.

Applicants submit that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness for the claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 2

Applicants submit that, at least for the reasons stated above for Claim 1, cited reference do not teach, disclose or suggest "generating a continuous developed still image from a video image of an inner wall of a tubular object photographed while **moving in the axial direction of the tubular object**... pipe projection converting means for creating a developed diagram in the **circumferential direction of the inner wall of the tubular object** with respect to each of frames of the captured digital image data" (emphasis added) as recited in Claim 2. Hence, Claim 2 is patentable over the cited art and should be allowed by the Examiner.

Claims 3-8

Claims 3-8, at least based on their dependency on Claims 1-2, respectively, are also patentable over the cited art and should be allowed by the Examiner.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

I hereby certify that this document is being transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office via electronic filing.

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